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Westinghouse
Electric Corporation

Westinghouse Building
Gateway Center
Pittsburgh Pennsylvania 15222

November 5, 1991

Mr. Frank Vavra
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
841 Chestnut Building
Philadelphia, PA 19107

Dear Mr. Vavra:

Attached, for your files, is a copy of a trip report prepared by Mr. Charles Denoncourt of RMC Environmental Services summarizing his observations during the recent trip to the Hunterstown Road site with you and Mr. Robert Davis on October 17, 1991.

ReTeC is proceeding with revisions to the ecological risk assessment report based on these findings and your letters of October 17 and 28, 1991. The ecological and human health risk assessment report will be submitted to you one month from the date of your October 17, 1991 comment letter as we discussed.

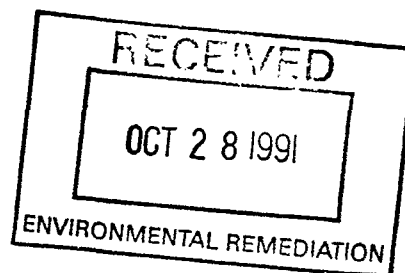
If you have any questions, please call me at 412/642-3958.

Very truly yours,

Margaret A. Zak
Project Engineer
Environmental Remediation
Environmental Affairs

AR306356

24 October 1991



Ms. Margaret A. Zak
Project Engineer
Westinghouse Electric Corporation
Westinghouse Building
Gateway Center
Pittsburgh, PA 15222

SUBJECT: Surface Water Resources Examination
Hunterstown Road RI/FS Site
RMC Job No. 3761

Dear Ms. Zak:

At your request, I met U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) site manager Frank Vavaro and biologist Robert Davis on 22 September 1991 to conduct a field examination of surface water resources in the vicinity of the Hunterstown Road RI/FS Site near Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. I took several photographs of each of the three streams examined in addition to general observations. All three streams were virtually dry despite considerable rainfall in the area on 17 October 1991.

We began the field examination with the central stream. This stream appears to function as a drainage swale capable of carrying surface runoff generated during heavy rainfall. Disturbed leaf litter in the upper portion of this swale gave evidence of recent transport of considerable flow, probably on 17 October. However, this disturbance did not extend down the swale for any distance. The extent of the leaf litter disturbance implied that the water moving down the stream suddenly drained into the ground approximately 75 yards prior to passing under the access road culvert. Frank Vavaro hypothesized that there may be a geological fault in the rock strata at this point allowing surface contributions to the groundwater table. Immediately downstream of this area and extending beyond the access road culvert, the stream was heavily vegetated in grasses, implying minimal use of this portion of the stream by surface water. Photographs were taken of this area.

We then walked across the site to the stream leaving the "lagoon." This stream was examined at two points, one point approximately 50 feet from the lagoon discharge, and a second point approximately 75 yards further downstream. The stream had small, isolated pools of water but no surface flow. Algae in the pools implied that they had contained water for some time and the stream may be carrying minimal interstitial flows in the substrate. However, examination of substrate and leaf litter at the upper point revealed no organisms.



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Examination of substrate and leaf litter at the downstream point revealed the presence of a few Physidae snails. Appendix A of the USEPA Macroinvertebrate Field and Laboratory Methods for Evaluating the Biological Integrity of Surface Waters (EPA/600/4-90/030) provides information on pollution tolerance of selected macroinvertebrates. This document lists several members of the snail family Physidae as being very tolerant of organic waste. Unfortunately, this document provides no information detailing tolerance of these organisms to heavy metal or volatile organic compounds.

The final stream evaluated runs adjacent to the area used for drum disposal. This stream also appears to function as a drainage swale capable of carrying surface runoff generated during heavy rainfall. Despite the recent heavy rainfall (17 October) there was no water in the stream and the substrate in the upper reaches was dry and hard. We walked the stream from above the old drum disposal area to a point adjacent to the small pond. There was some small, shallow pools of water in the extreme lower portion of the stream examined, but no organisms noted. We took a look at the pond and observed several adult damselflies and one large crayfish.

At this point we concluded the stream examination. I spent a little time with Bob Davis discussing the definition of "intermittent stream" he uses. He referred to J.B. Hynes' text Ecology of Running Waters and stated that he defers to this text to provide the most generous or lenient definition to err on the side of the stream if at all. However, the lack of even minimal diversity in terms of aquatic organisms as well as the lack of water in these streams would probably support use of the term "intermittent" in reference to the two of the three streams. The stream located near the "lagoon" may transport water through interstitial spaces in the substrate even during dry periods. However, the absence of aquatic life, whether due to lack of flow or chemical impact, would preclude describing this stream as perennial.

If there is any further assistance RMC or I can provide, please call.

Sincerely,



Charles E. Denoncourt
Project Manager

bsm

